



4/26/02



27805

PATENT TRADEMARK OFFICE

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

PATENT

Cofer
6-24-02

Application of

Applicant : Schaefer et al.
Serial No. : 09/996,244
Filed : November 28, 2001
Title : TRAPPING AND STORAGE OF FREE THERMAL NEUTRONS IN FULLERENE MOLECULES
Docket : 594826-001C1
Art Unit : 3641

Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Prior to examination, please amend the above-identified application as follows:

IN THE CLAIMS:



Please cancel claims 20-28.

Please re-write claims 4-6 and 8-19 as follows:

4. (Amended) The fullerene molecule of claim 1 wherein said neutrons are capable of being accelerated to elevated energy levels by accelerating the neutron-containing fullerene molecule.
5. (Amended) The fullerene molecule of claim 4 wherein said neutron-containing fullerene is capable of being provided with an electrical charge and accelerated in a particle accelerator.
6. (Amended) The fullerene molecule of claim 4 wherein said neutrons are capable of creating a uniform beam of free thermal neutrons at a uniform energy.